

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 6, 2008. Claims 1-15 are cancelled and claims 16-21 are amended. Claims 16-21 remain pending in view of the above amendments.

Applicant notes that the remarks presented herein have been made to clarify the claimed embodiments from elements purported to be taught by the cited reference(s). Such remarks, or a lack of remarks, are not intended to constitute, and should not be construed as, an acquiescence, on the part of the Applicant: as to the purported teachings or prior art status of the cited references; as to the characterization of the cited references advanced by the Examiner; or as to any other assertions, allegations or characterizations made by the Examiner at any time in this case. Applicants reserve the right to challenge the purported teaching and prior art status of the cited references at any appropriate time.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or, in the alternative, § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 5-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over JA 2002-032909 (*Hironao*). Claims 1-15 have been cancelled rendering the rejections moot. However, Applicant does not concede or admit the purported teachings of the cited art as set forth in the Office Action with respect to the cancelled claims and reserves the right to address the purported teachings of the cited art advanced in the Office Action if necessary.

Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner's careful review and identification of allowable subject matter in claims 16-21 is appreciated. The Office Action indicated that claims 16-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this paper, claims 16-21 have been rewritten in independent form including any intervening claims. As a result, claims 16-21 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 6th day of June, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

/Carl T. Reed/ Reg. # 45454
CARL T. REED

Registration No. 45,454
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 022913
Telephone No. 801.533.9800

1691174_1